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AUTHORITY

THE FALL OF THE MUTANTS™

THE NEW MUTANTS®

THE TEENAGERS AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS ARE MUTANTS... PARA-HUMAN BEINGS, BORN WITH A TWIST IN THEIR GENETIC STRUCTURE THAT GIVES THEM EXTRAORDINARY POWERS.

OUR WAY!

THE STUDENTS RECENTLY CLASHED WITH THE NEW HEADMASTER, **MAGNETO**. HE **GROUNDED** THEM.

THEY IGNORED HIS ORDERS, TO COME TO THE AID OF A FRIEND, THE BIRD-BOY THEY HAD NAMED **BIRD-BRAIN**. BIRD-BRAIN LIVED. BUT A **NEW MUTANT** DIED!

Oh, DOUG, YOU DIED TO SAVE ME! I-I'M NOT *WORTH* IT!

RAHNE! *STOP!* YOU'RE *HYSTERICAL!* YOU'LL MAKE YOURSELF *SICK*.

I SHOULD BE *WORSE* THAN SICK, DANI! I SHOULD BE *DEAD!*

IT'S THE *ANI-MATOR* WHO SHOULD BE DEAD! HE SHOT *DOUG*. YOU SHOULD HAVE LET ME *KILL* HIM!

CREATED BY *CHRIS CLAREMONT & BOB McLEOD*

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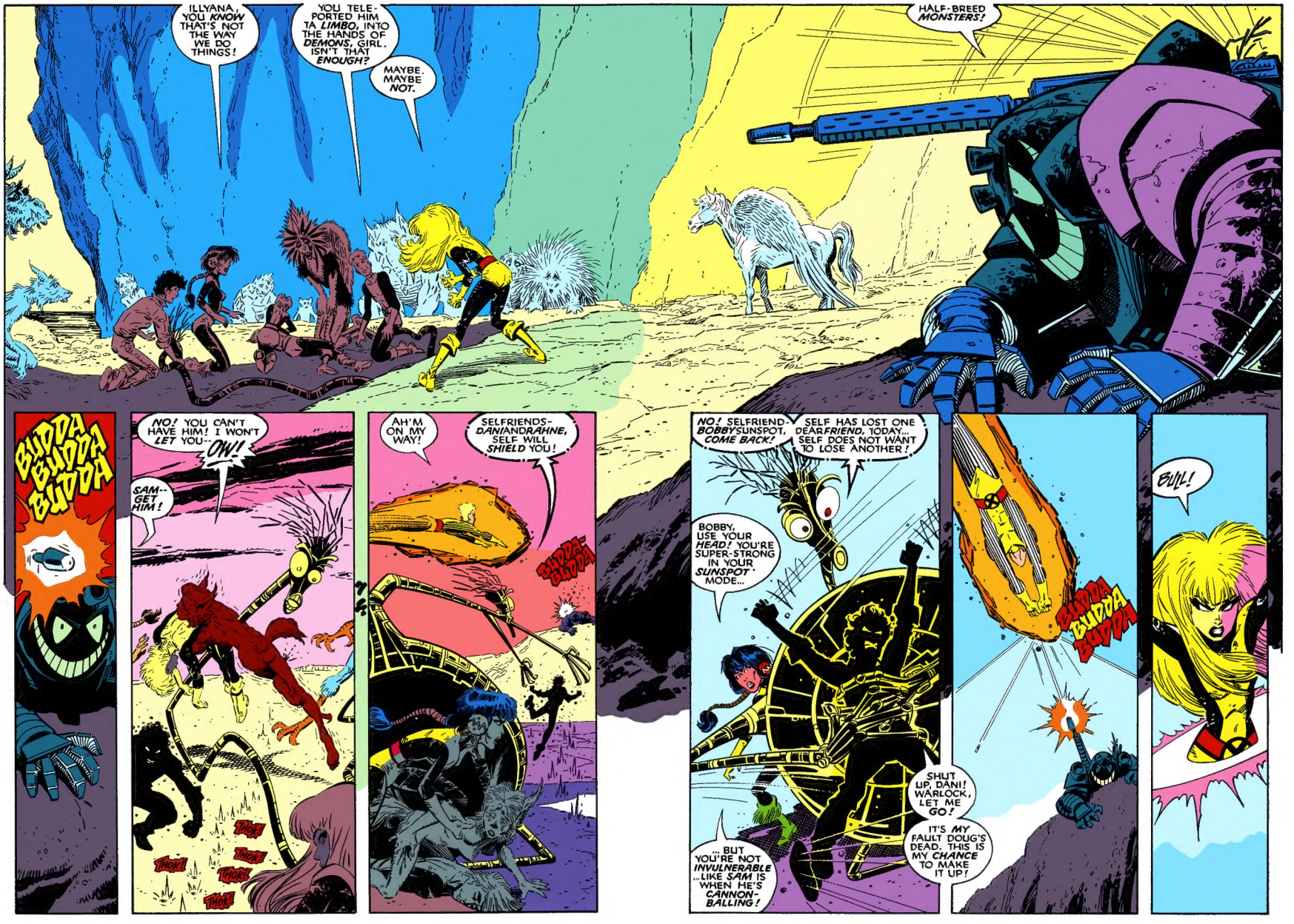

ILLYANA, YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT THE WAY WE DO THINGS!
YOU TELE-PORTED HIM TA LIMBO, INTO THE HANDS OF DEMONS, GIRL. ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
MAYBE. MAYBE NOT.
HALF-BREED MONSTERS!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
NO! YOU CAN'T HAVE HIM! I WON'T LET YOU--
OW!
SAM--GET HIM!
THOK!
AH'M ON MY WAY!
SELFRIENDS-DANIANDRAHNE, SELF WILL SHIELD YOU!
BUDDA-BUDDA
NO! SELFRIEND-BOBBYSUNSPOT, COME BACK!
SELF HAS LOST ONE DEARFRIEND, TODAY... SELF DOES NOT WANT TO LOSE ANOTHER!
BOBBY, USE YOUR HEAD! YOU'RE SUPER-STRONG IN YOUR SUNSPOT MODE...
... BUT YOU'RE NOT INVULNERABLE ...LIKE SAM IS WHEN HE'S CANNON-BALLING!
SHUT UP, DANI! WARLOCK, LET ME GO!
IT'S MY FAULT DOUG'S DEAD. THIS IS MY CHANCE TO MAKE IT UP!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
BULL!

IT'S THE FAULT OF *MUTANT HATERS* LIKE *YOU!*

ILLYANA! WHAT THE HECK'RE YOU...

...*DOIN'?*

CRASH!

AIIEE! W-WHERE *AM* I...?

LIMBO! HOME, SWEET *HOME*, SMILE-FACE! A TERRIBLE DIMENSION TO VISIT... AND YOU WOULDN'T *WANT* TO *LIVE* HERE!

Ah, SWEET GIRLCHILD ILLYANA!

S'YM! I KNEW YOU'D BE LURKING AROUND! YOU NEVER COULD RESIST THE SCENT OF BLOOD!

YOU AND YOUR ***DEMON HORDE*** HAVE MADE SOME CHANGES, I SEE!

THE ***SWORD*** WAS GONE! S'YM TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO... ***RE-DECORATE***, IN A MANNER MORE TO S'YM'S LIKING!

IS THIS MORE ***TRIBUTE*** YOU HAVE BROUGHT TO ***S'YM***... THE NEW ***LORD*** OF YOUR ***DOMAIN***...?

EVER THE *HUMORIST*, DEMON!

I BROUGHT THIS *SOUL* TO SWELL THE RANKS OF MY KINGDOM...

...KNOWING YOU AND MY OTHER UNRULY SUBJECTS WILL *WELCOME* HIM...

...WITH *OPEN ARMS!*

AHHHG

THERE'S *MORE* WHERE HE CAME FROM. I'M SURE YOU'LL GREET *THEM* AS FONDLY!

ENJOY YOUR STAY, *SMILE-FACES!* HAVE A NICE DAY!

ILLYANA! WHAT *HAPPENED...?*

WHERE'D YOU *GO,* ILLYANA? WHERE'D YOU *TAKE* THEM? WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME DO YOU THINK YOU'RE *DOING?*

HEAVEN HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!

YOU KNOW NOW... YOU *MUST* KNOW... THAT WE CAN'T TAKE ALL THESE ANI-MATES BACK WITH US...

...NOT WHILE MONSTERS LIKE *THE RIGHT* ARE THERE, READY TO CAGE AND *TORTURE* THEM!

THE ANI-MATES *FOUGHT* ALONG SIDE OF US! THEY *EARNED* THE RIGHT TO LIVE ON THEIR OWN, TO FIND OUT WHO AND WHAT THEY ARE.

AND WE CAN'T *LEAVE* THEM HERE, TO FALL *PREY* TO THOSE SMILE-FACES...

... SO I... PUT THE SMILE-FACES WHERE THEY CAN'T HURT ANYONE ELSE!

WHAT'S THE *BIG DEAL*, DANI?

YOU PRACTICALLY *ORDERED* ME TO SEND SMILE-FACES TO LIMBO DURING THE BATTLE.*

*LAST ISSUE --Ann.

OR MAYBE IT SCARES YOU TO SEE ME LIKE I *REALLY* AM... TO KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU'RE... *ASSOCIATING* WITH!

LOOK, ILLYANA, WHAT YOU DID... I CAN SEE IT'S FOR THE BEST...

...AND *THIS* IS HOW YOU REALLY ARE!

THIS!

DON'T *COUNT* ON IT, TEAMMATE!

RAHNE... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

THE BULLET JUST CUT MY LEG A LITTLE, BUT... ILLYANA...?

I KNOW IT'S *WICKED* OF ME, BUT I'M *GLAD* YOU PUT THOSE HORRID *THINGS* IN LIMBO.

IT MAKES THE WORLD BETTER FOR *EVERY-BODY.*

IT'S WHAT DOUG *DIED* FOR... WHAT HE WOULD HAVE WANTED.

SOON...

WE HAVE TO GO HOME NOW, BIRD-BRAIN.

I KNOW YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND *EVERY-THING* WE SAY, BUT YOU DO KNOW *SOME*, AND YOU MUST TELL ME...

... ARE YOU *CERTAIN* THAT YOU WON'T COME BACK WITH US?

No! Not... come!

Be SQUAWK= long here!

Good-bye... fri-AWK=end.

BIRD-BRAIN, AN' YOU OTHERS, TOO. AH'M NOT MUCH GOOD AT SPEECHES, BUT DOUG...

... HE ALWAYS *SAID* YOU FOLKS WERE PEOPLE, EVEN WHEN THE REST OF US WEREN'T SO SURE.

DOUG WOULDA BEEN REAL PROUD OF THE WAY YOU BEHAVED...

... AN' HE'DA TOLD US, PROBABLY, THAT YOU FOLKS WERE WORTH DYIN' FOR.

AWRIGHT, ILLYANA, YOU CAN 'PORT US...

... HOME!

MAGNETO! MAGNETO, WE'RE *HOME!*

DON'T STRAIN YOUR VOCAL CHORDS, ILLYANA. HE'S *STILL* NOT AROUND.

I WONDER... WHERE CAN HE *BE?*

I GUESS IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT I FORGOT TO *TELL* YOU...

MAGNETO WAS PRACTICALLY *HYSTERI-CAL* BECAUSE YOU ALL HAD DISAPPEARED. HE LEFT SOON AFTER WARLOCK AND I ARRIVED.*

INFIRMARY

*FROM THEIR *ADVENTURE WITH THE FALLEN ANGELS* -- Ann.

"HE WAS GOING TO LOOK FOR YOU USING THE EQUPMENT IN THE *HELLFIRE CLUB* IN *MANHATTAN*... "

THE CITY IS A *SHAMBLES*. HOW DID IT *HAPPEN*...?

IT MUST HAVE BEEN LAST NIGHT, WHILE I WAS ASLEEP... OR AWAITING MY ABSENTEE STUDENTS.

I'VE SEEN *WORSE* DONE TO THE HUMANS... HAVE *DONE* WORSE IN MY TIME... WITHOUT REGRET.

MY CONCERN HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE PRESERVATION OF MY FELLOW *MUTANTS*...

...NOW, PARTICULARLY, THE WELL-BEING OF THE *CHILDREN* CHARLES XAVIER LEFT IN MY CHARGE.

I AM THE *MASTER OF MAGNETISM!* I POSSESS POWER UNDREAMT OF.

AND YET, I AM HELPLESS TO KEEP MY YOUNG CHARGES SAFE FROM HARM.

THAT WILL CHANGE... AND *SOON!*

I ONLY HOPE THEY HAVEN'T INVOLVED THEMSELVES IN THIS DISASTER. BEEN *INJURED*... OR WORSE...!

AND SOON, IN THE SECRET DEPTHS OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB, OPEN ONLY TO ITS RULING INNER CIRCLE...

Ah, IT'S TIME THAT YOU ARRIVED. GOING SOFT, MAGNUS?

BACK WHEN YOU LED THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS, YOU'D NEVER HAVE MISSED THAT FIGHT!

FIGHT...?

THE ATTACK ON MANHATTAN BY THE FOUR HORSEMEN AND A GIANT AIR-SHIP*...

...CAPTURED BY A MUTANT WHO CALLS HIMSELF APOCALYPSE. VERY BIBLICAL.

WE... PROTECTED OUR TURF. APOCALYPSE ESCAPED... OF COURSE. MAYBE WE SHOULD INVITE HIM TO JOIN US...!

*IN X-FACTOR #24-25 -- Ann.

I'M YOUR WHITE BISHOP. I'D HAVE COME, HAD I BEEN CALLED. BUT MY HEART WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN IT.

THE MAJOR THREAT WAS TO THE HUMANS... AND I HAVEN'T YET BECOME PRO-HUMAN...!

AND THOUGH I'VE RECENTLY COME TO BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE BETTER WAYS TO ADVANCE MUTANTKIND THAN TO TEAR APART HUMAN SOCIETY...

...THAT CONCLUSION IS OPEN TO RE-EVALUATION.

RE-EVALUATION SEEMS TO BE THE ORDER OF THE DAY. OBSERVE, MAGNUS, THE CONQUERING HEROES REVEALED...

X-FACTOR. I RECOGNIZED THEM LONG AGO, OF COURSE.

BUT WHY THEY SHOULD INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN THAT MUTANT HUNTER SCAM...

...OR REVEAL THEMSELVES NOW--? INCOMPREHENSIBLE! I HAVE MORE PRESSING WORRIES.

MY STUDENTS ARE MISSING, SHAW. I NEED THE HELLFIRE CLUB'S EQUIPMENT TO TRY AND LOCATE--

MAGNUS! LOOK! IN DALLAS!

THAT'S ILLYANA'S BROTHER, COLOSSUS! AND THE X-MEN! WHAT IS GOING ON?

WHILE IN THE SCHOOL'S INFIRMARY...

DOUG'S NOT THE FIRST ONE'A XAVIER'S STUDENTS TA DIE, YA KNOW.

YEAH. EVEN THE PROFESSOR COULDN'T STOP *THUNDERBIRD* FROM BEING KILLED...

I GUESS *DANGER*... AND *DYING'S*, A PART OF BEING HEROES.

EVEN YOUR BROTHER PETER WAS *HURT*, WASN'T HE, ILLYANA?

PETER'S *BETTER* NOW. I 'PORTED HIM TO DALLAS TO BE WITH THE X-MEN.

HE WAS WORRIED, I THINK...

HERE'S WHERE MY BROTHER *JOINED* THE X-MEN.

HE'S SO HANDSOME... ALL SHINING STEEL... LIKE A KNIGHT IN ARMOR, ISN'T HE?

THERE'S *PROFESSOR XAVIER* IN HIS WHEELCHAIR. HE SURE TRAINED A *BUNCH* A' US, DIDN'T HE...?

HE CREATED THE SCHOOL TO TRAIN GOOD MUTANTS-- *X-MEN*-- SO THEY COULD SAVE THE WORLD FROM THE *EVIL MUTANTS*.

IT WAS A LOVELY IDEA. I MISS *PROFESSOR X*.

I WISH *MAGNETO* WOULD COME HOME.

MAGNETO? BUT... ILLYANA, YOU ALWAYS WANT TO *DISOBEY* HIM. AND... AND...

AND RIGHT NOW HE'S AT THE *HELLFIRE CLUB*, CONSORTING WITH VILLAINS!

HE'S LOOKING FOR *US*, ISN'T HE?

THEN WE BETTER *CALL* HIM THERE AND LET HIM KNOW WE'RE BACK... AND LET HIM KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO DOUG.

C'MON, RAHNE! MAYBE YOU SHOULD *LIE DOWN* FOR A WHILE.

LISTEN, BOBBY, *YOU* WERE THE LAST ONE TO SEE MAGNETO. MAYBE *YOU* SHOULD CALL HIM!

ILLYANA, YOU AN' 'LOCK MIND STAYIN' HERE... WITH DOUG?

ME?!? NO *WAY!*

I... *WE* DON'T MIND.

QUERY: WHY COVER SELFRIEND'S FACE, ILLYANA?

IT'S JUST TEMPORARY. WE'LL *BURY* HIM LATER... WHEN MAGNETO GETS BACK.

BURY--? SO MUCH THAT SELF DOES NOT UNDER-STAND.

HOW CAN SELFRIENDILLYANA *TRUST* MAGNETO... YET SIMULTANEOUSLY DISOBEY?

WHEN I WAS PRACTICALLY A BABY, I WAS *LOST* IN LIMBO, I *GREW UP* THERE, EARNED MY *POWER* THERE AT A... TERRIBLE PRICE.

MY DEMONS WANT ME TO *STAY* THERE... AND PART OF ME WANTS IT, TOO. LIMBO'S... LIKE A BLACK HOLE THAT TUGS AT ME...

BUT *MAGNETO* HELPED ME THERE.* WITH HIM STANDING GUARD, I CAN RELAX A LITTLE.

*IN NM #52.

AND TRY... *PRETEND* TO BE A NORMAL KID.

DOUG WAS GOOD AND KIND. HE WAS MY *FRIEND*. HE DIED SAVING ME... AND I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE.

LOOK, RAHNE, YOU WERE FIGHTIN' FOR YOUR *LIFE*. WE *ALL* WERE. *NONE* A' US NOTICED. YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF.

Oh, STOP IT, SAM! I'M SO WICKED. I DON'T *DESERVE* TO HAVE PEOPLE LOVE ME... OR BE KIND TO ME.

I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD'VE *DIED!*

JUST... LEAVE ME *ALONE!*

RAHNE! *NO! COME BACK!*

SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH

YIIEEELP!

RAHNE!

RAHNE, RAHNE, AH GOTCHA!

WHAT THE HECK WERE YOU DOING?

I WANTED TO BE ALONE BUT THE ROOF SLATE *CRUMBLED* AND MY WOLF FORM DOESN'T HAVE HANDS AND I COULDN'T GRAB OR SWITCH BACK FAST ENOUGH AND--

--AND I NEARLY BLEW IT *THIS* TIME, TOO.

BLEW *WHAT?*

AH'M THE *OLDEST*. AH SHOULDA BEEN WATCHIN' DOUG, SAME AS AH USED TA WATCH MY LITTLE BROTHERS AN' SISTERS.

AH *KNEW* DOUG DIDN'T HAVE *PHYSICAL* POWERS... THAT HE WAS A'MOST LIKE A *NORMAL KID*.

I SHOULD'A WATCHED HIM.

Oh, SAM, 'TIS VERY *SELFISH* I'VE BEEN. DON'T BLAME YUIRSELF.

HAVING POWERS MAKES US FEEL *SPECIAL*... SORT OF *INVULNERABLE*... LIKE ME ON THE ROOF.

I GUESS WE *ALL* FORGET WE'RE *NOT*...

BUT I HAVE AN IDEA, SAM. WE CAN'T MAKE OURSELVES *INVULNERABLE*, BUT MAYBE IF YOU LOOK AFTER ME...

...LIKE YOUR LITTLE SISTERS... AND... AND I LOOK AFTER YOU... LIKE YOU WERE MY *BROTHER*...

I... I NEVER HAD A BROTHER LIKE *ILLYANA* DOES. I ALWAYS THOUGHT SHE WAS SO LUCKY.

I NEVER HAD *ANY* FAMILY.

OKAY, FUZZY-HEAD, LET'S MAKE IT OFFICIAL, OKAY? I HEREBY ADOPT YOU TO BE MY LITTLE SISTER.

Oh... SAM...

YOU WOULDN'T HAVE *BELIEVED* IT, BOBBY. IT WAS ACTUALLY *DOUG'S* IDEA...

...HE WAS JEALOUS AT FIRST, SEE, AND TRYING TO GET BIRD-BRAIN IN TROUBLE.

DOUG SAID BIRD-BRAIN WOULDN'T ACT HUMAN BUT RAHNE SAID HE WOULD...

...SO WE DRESSED BIRD-BRAIN UP AND TOOK HIM TO THE *MALT SHOPPE*...

...AND HE ENDED UP DUMPING A *CHOCOLATE SHAKE* ON DOUG'S *HEAD!*

ILLYANA COULDN'T STOP *LAUGHING*, I'VE NEVER SEEN HER LAUGH LIKE THAT...!

I'LL DIAL... BUT *YOU'VE* GOTTA TALK!

THE SHOPPE OWNER CALLED MAGNETO COMPLAINING ABOUT XAVIER'S STUDENTS' BEHAVIOR.

YOU SHOULD HAVE *SEEN* MAGNETO'S *FACE* WHEN WE GOT HOME... AND DOUG STILL HAD *SHAKE* IN HIS HAIR!

I *SAW* MAGNETO'S FACE WHEN 'LOCK AND I GOT BACK, *IT* WASN'T FUNNY.

HE WAS WORRIED *SICK* SOMETHING LIKE THAT WOULD HAPPEN.

IT'S *MY* FAULT DOUG'S DEAD! I RAN AWAY... TOOK WARLOCK WITH ME.

DOUG AND 'LOCK WERE ALWAYS A *TEAM*. IF LOCK'D *STAYED* HERE... IF THEY'D STAYED A *TEAM*, HE WOULD'VE *PROTECTED* DOUG...

...AND DOUG WOULD STILL BE *ALIVE*.

MAGNETO DOESN'T LIKE ME AND *XAVIER* THOUGHT I'D TURN TO EVIL AND MY *FATHER* THINKS I'M A WIMP.

BUT I AM TRULY A--

WHAT--? A *MONSTER*--?

WELL, LISTEN, JERK! I *KNEW* WE WERE GROUNDED... I KNEW *WHY*...

...BUT I AGREED TO FOLLOW BIRD-BRAIN AND HIS PEOPLE, ANYWAY.

I COULD'VE STOPPED THEM... I'M SUPPOSEDLY THE *CO-BOSS* OF THIS TEAM.

I COULD'VE INSISTED WE WAKE UP MAGNETO 'FORE WE LEFT. BUT I KNEW THEY'D GO ANYWAY...

... AND THINK I WAS A WIMP... AND I WANTED TO *STAY* BOSS...

I WAS SO ALONE BEFORE I CAME HERE... MY MIRAGE POWER MADE ME AN OUTCAST...

...'TIL XAVIER TAUGHT ME, I COULDN'T *USE* IT... *CONTROL* IT FOR GOOD OR ILL.

SO... I KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT AND WENT ALONG WITH THEM. AND DOUG PAID FOR IT.

LOOK, DANI, *EVERYBODY* WANTS TO BE ACCEPTED... LOVED... WHATEVER. I THOUGHT I WASN'T. THAT'S WHY I RAN AWAY.

SO WE'RE *BOTH* MONSTERS, SOMETIMES, BIG DEAL. *THIS* TIME WE'LL *SHARE* THE HONOR...!

AND MAYBE NEXT TIME WE CAN FIND SOME BETTER WAY TO USE OUR POWERS THAN AGAINST EACH OTHER.

YEAH. *THIS* DISPLAY OF *MACHO* SURE DIDN'T HELP. WE STILL GOTTA PHONE MAGNETO...

YEAH... I KNOW. WELL, THERE'S ALWAYS THE PHONE IN THE KITCHEN.

SO WHAT ABOUT IT, BOSS-LADY? WANNA DO IT TOGETHER?

SOON...

SAM! RAHNE! COME QUICK!

MAGNETO WASN'T AT THE *HELLFIRE CLUB*, HE USED THEIR EQUIPMENT TO FIND OUT WE WERE *HERE*. HE'S ON HIS WAY *HOME*...

...BUT GUESS WHAT THE HELLFIRE CLUB GOON SAID IS ON TV?

TV...? AT A TIME LIKE *THIS*?

THERE! SEE? THAT'S *X-FACTOR* IN MANHATTAN.

THEY'RE REALLY THE *X-TERMINATORS* WHO'RE REALLY THE FIRST *X-MEN* AN' THEY SAID THEY'RE MUTANTS... ON PUBLIC TV.

AND THAT'S NOT ALL. *OUR* X-MEN ARE IN DALLAS AND THEY'RE FIGHTING SOMETHING *WEIRD*.

THERE'RE *DINOSAURS* AND *MONSTERS* AND, LOOK, ILLYANA, THERE'S YOUR BROTHER! THERE'S *COLOSSUS!*

SEE... THEY'RE RUNNING INTO THAT SKYSCRAPER. I WISH *WE* WERE THERE--

BOOM!

THE BUILDING-- IT EXPLODED! THE WHOLE THING EXPLODED!

PETER! NO!

I TELEPORTED HIM THERE! IT'S ALL MY FAULT!

WHERE *WERE* ALL OF YOU?

MAGNETO!

TERRIBLE THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING IN *NEW YORK*, IN *DALLAS*...

FOR ALL I KNEW, YOU COULD HAVE BEEN *EITHER PLACE*. YOU COULD HAVE BEEN *KILLED*.

WE... *WEREN'T* EITHER PLACE, SIR, AN' WE... *WE'RE* OKAY, BUT...

DOUG! WHERE'S *DOUG?!?*

DOUG'S *DEAD*... AND NOW IT LOOKS LIKE THE *X-MEN* AND ILLYANA'S *BROTHER* MIGHT BE DEAD, TOO.

DEAD...?

NO!

WHAT... *HAPPENED?* WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE* TO HIM?

IS *THIS* THE ONLY WAY I CAN KEEP YOU *SAFE?*

BIRD-BRAIN HAD FRIENDS... CREATURES LIKE HIMSELF WHO WERE IN TROUBLE.

WE WENT TO HELP... BECAUSE BIRD-BRAIN WAS OUR FRIEND... AND FRIENDS WATCH OUT FOR EACH OTHER.

DOUG WAS A MUTANT-- ONE OF YOUR *OWN* KIND!

A FINE JOB YOU DID LOOKING AFTER HIM. I *FORBADE* YOU TO GO OUT. *ALL* OF YOU...!

LEAVE HER ALONE!

IT'S NOT *RAHNE'S* FAULT. BIRD-BRAIN NEEDED OUR *HELP*... HE WAS OUR *RESPONSI-BILITY!*

YOU ARE *MY* RESPONSIBILITY!

AND *THIS* IS YOUR IDEA OF HOW TO KEEP US *SAFE?* WRAP US IN FOIL AND PUT US ON A SHELF?!

WE'RE NOT *DOLLS*, MAGNETO! WE'RE *PEOPLE*, WITH *POWERS*... *GIFTS*, TO USE FOR GOOD OR ILL. BUT TO *USE!*

NO!

SMASH!

YES! IF WE HADN'T USED OUR POWERS... *AND* OUR BRAINS... THERE'D HAVE BEEN *MORE* DEATHS. BUT WHAT DID YOU CARE.

YOU RAN OFF TO THE HELL-FIRE CLUB WHILE ME AND WARLOCK FIGURED OUT WHERE THEY'D GONE.

I LEFT YOU A NOTE THAT *EXPLAINED* IT.

IF YOU'D GIVEN US *CREDIT*, IF YOU'D *STAYED* HOME, IF YOU'D EVEN *COME BACK* YOU'D HAVE *FOUND* THE NOTE...

...AND THINGS MIGHT HAVE ENDED *DIFFERENTLY*.

ARROGANT *PUP--!* YOU SHOULD *NOT* HAVE LEFT AT ALL!

STOP!

STOP IT. *ALL* OF YOU! *DOUG* IS *DEAD!* BUT THE X-MEN... MY *BROTHER*... MAY STILL BE *ALIVE!*

WE HAVE TO *HELP* THEM!

THE X-MEN ARE *ADULTS*, CHOOSING TO ENDANGER THEMSELVES PROTECTING HUMANS. THEY CAN TAKE CARE OF *THEMSELVES*.

YOU MEAN... YOU AREN'T GOING TO *DO* ANYTHING...?

I AM, *INDEED*.

I AM GOING TO DO THE MOST DIFFICULT THING I HAVE EVER DONE.

I WILL CALL DOUG'S *PARENTS*... AND TRY TO FIND SOME WAY TO TELL THEM THAT I ALLOWED THEIR SON TO DIE.

AND MY BROTHER? I CAN'T *ALLOW IT!* AND I *WON'T!*

ILLYANA!

WHERE'D SHE *GO?*

STOP HER!

NOW LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

IT'S ALL *YOUR* FAULT!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The very least you could have done was offer me a cup of coffee *before* you tried to kill me!"

—HAWKEYE
SOLO AVENGERS #5

ITEM: The King of Comics celebrated his seventieth birthday this past summer, and a fortunate few of us beaming Bullpenners were on hand to join with well over a hundred top comics professionals in the festivities. The King, of course, is none other than *Jack Kirby*, co-creator of the Fantastic Four, Thor, Hulk, and dozens and dozens of other Marvel superstars (as well as scores of characters for virtually every major comics cosmos there ever was!). Jack has made an indelible imprint upon the entire comics medium, and nowhere is that more evident than on Jack's most enduring co-creations here at Marvel. Anyway, several of Jack's closest cronies (led by *Mark Evanier* of GROO fame) decided to throw him a surprise wingding during the San Diego Comics Convention and managed to invite over a hundred people and managed to keep it a secret from The King. (Of course, it helped that they let Jack's lovely wife, *Roz*, in on the secret!) Jack was led to believe he was going to a small private get-together, but when he walked in, he was surprised by a reception fit for a King! With a live band, giant cake, special program book, and hundreds of well-wishers, it was a birthday bash that was memorable, fun-filled, and touching. Special King-size kudos also go to *Greg Theakston*, *Mike Thibodeaux*, *Steve Rude*, *Len Wein*, *Marv Wolfman*, *Scott Shaw!*, and *Richard Howell* for helping to organize it all. Honorary King's men all! We all love you, Jack — here's to seventy more!

ITEM: It's Editorial Turnover time yet again. After 2½ years as an assistant editor, *Rosemary McCormick*, Marvel's favorite blushing Britisher, has decided to leave these hallowed halls in order to become an elementary school teacher. Teaching has been a longtime love for Rosemary and when the opportunity to trade in her comic books for textbooks came along, she reluctantly decided to go for it. (If you don't remember that R.M. worked with *Carl Potts*, then with *Bob Budiansky*, two points off!) We're going to miss the redheaded Ms. M. — never again will we have the opportunity to glimpse her and fellow redhead and assistant editor *Joanne Spaldo* talking in the hall and call out, "Red Alert! Red Alert!" Best of luck, Ro. We can only think of about a million people who would love it if their teacher once worked for Marvel!

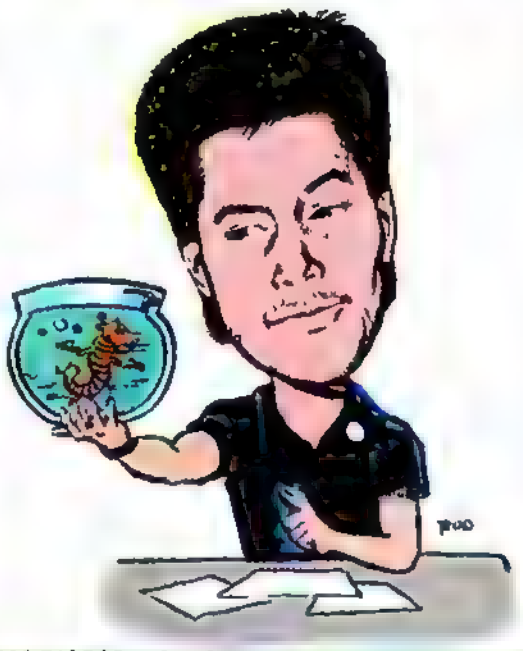
ITEM: Taking Rosemary's place as Bob Budiansky's assistant is a fellow by the name of *Dwayne McDuffie*. Dwayne's led a checkered life prior to his making the Marvel scene — he's sold stories to television, skits to the Second City comedy troupe, and in his spare time has picked up a Master's degree in Physics, and Bachelor's degrees in English Literature, Film Criticism, and Dramatic Writing. And now he'll bring all that knowledge and experience to bear here at Mighty Marvel. Welcome aboard, Dwayne!

ITEM: There's nothing that pleases comics creators more than a little media recognition for their comics work — and by media, we mean the mass communications systems other than comics. Staffer *Mark Gruenwald* was the recipient of just enough media attention the other week to make his already bulbous head swell to twice its normal size. In the space of one week, both the *Washington Post Magazine* and the National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* program heard about his current controversial storyline in CAPTAIN AMERICA and interviewed him about it and its bearing (if any) on the recent Iran-contra Affair. Okay, Mark — you got your name in print *again* so get back to your desk. (What's that? Your swollen head still won't fit through your office door? Somebody get a crowbar!)

ITEM: *Whoops!* We have no room for this month's checklist. Maybe next time . . .

Pro File on: CARL POTTS

Editor on: *PUNISHER, ALPHA FLIGHT, POWER PACK, STRANGE TALES, STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI, CAPT JUSTICE*
Marvel freelance credits (past): *Writing and/or penciling and/or inking on: 'LAST OF THE DRAGONS' for* EPIC ILLUSTRATED *(soon to be a major graphic novel collection),* DR. STRANGE *#63,* MOON KNIGHT, *FANFARE portfolio, plus a handful of covers on a variety of titles.*
Marvel freelance credits (present): *ALIEN LEGION (packager/creator), STRANGE TALES #9 cover, SHADOWMASTERS Ltd. Series (writer), SPELLBOUND Ltd. Series (co-creator & inker), a Spider-Man story for FANFARE (writer) and a bunch of other top secret stuff.*
My hobbies are: *Maintaining marine aquariums, martial arts, Skirmish paint games, sleeping in awkward positions.*
The single work which I am most proud of is: *That's too tough to call.*
My pet peeves are: *Unprofessional people, smokers in enclosed public places, delayed airline flights.*
My place of birth was: *Oakland, Calif. (Land of Enchantment, and true home to the Raiders.)*
My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: *Keeping a mated pair of* AMPHIPRION OCELLARIS *alive and healthy for over seven years now. How many people do you know can say that?*



My oddest habit is: *Occasionally taking Ralph Macchio seriously.*
If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: *Kevin Costner.*
The reason I got into comics was: *I loved them since I was knee high to a grasshopper.*
People who knew me in High School thought I was: *An Indian.*
My favorite performers are: *Jane Siberry, Sandie Shaw, Kirsty MacColl, Sandii and the Sunsetz, Nazz, Hollies, Beatles, Colin Wilkinson, Frances Ruffelle, Sonny Chiba, Toshiro Mifune.*
The last good book I read was: FISHES OF SRI LANKA, MALDIVE ISLANDS, AND MOMBASA *by Dr. Warren E. Burgess and Dr. Herbert R. Axelrod. Also* WILD CARDS *by various science-fiction writers.*
The last good movie I saw was: NOT *SUPERMAN IV.*
The biggest influences on my work include: *Stan Lee, Steve Ditko, Akira Kurosawa, most American illustrators from Pyle to Cornwell, Gustav Klimt.*
My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: *To write and draw a regular series for a long run.*
The worst part of my job is: *Dealing with late freelancers.*
When nobody's looking I like to: *Crack my back.*
The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: *I count myself to be very lucky to work in such a fun and creative environment.*

THE REAL ORIGIN OF THE WOLFPACK!

1983 — It had been bugging me, as I worked on the mutant books, that many Marvel Comics teams had jets and limos and mansions and credit cards, and this didn't seem to represent a lot of kids in the world. Breakdancing was just getting hot, and so was graffiti art; the south Bronx scene was exploding in the media. I found the kids involved in this to be very courageous, to be heroes and started poking around for someone interested in writing a comic book series about that world, a world very far from the money-easy world of the X-Men, the Avengers, and the Fantastic Four. A world far away but nonetheless populated by heroes. Then, in the summer of '84, I was at a comic book convention in Houston, and Ron Wilson showed me a drawing of the heroes I had been envisioning. It was a beautiful drawing of the Wolfpack, wearing their colors and their "looks." Ron had a whole scenario typed up as to who and what the Pack was, and we knew we had something exciting.

Back in New York, we got together and began to talk. With the help of former Marvel editor, Mike Carlin, who's now working for our Distinguished Competition, we began pointing Wolfpack's world. What kind of 'heroes' would they be? They couldn't go out and stop a kid from breaking into a store, because they knew the kid; maybe they knew he was stealing because his dad was a drunk who had taken the family's welfare check. Maybe they knew his gang, and stopping him would only start a gang war. These were the kinds of talks we had about the 'Pack.'

Writer (and another former Marvel editor) Larry Hama took all this talk and came back with a new scenario. The 'pack' now had faces, names, personalities, and the South Bronx, had a real shape and feel to it. Larry created the 'Nine' and the 'Ten' and an age-old battle where the Bronx was an often used battleground. He brought in stories that made us cry and stories that made us laugh.

Then we really started making comics.

Tom DeFalco recently read the first three issues and decided that the most spectacular way to launch this series was to combine these stories into a single graphic novel. The novel's on the stands now, and a twelve-issue limited series will soon follow. If you really like Wolfpack, we can always make it a regular monthly series.

Ron Wilson, Larry Hama, John Figueroa (another writer on the series), Kyle Baker (whose killer inks keep the book looking hot), and I are anxious to hear how you feel about the 'Pack.'

—Ann Nocenti
September 1987

Look for our spectacular new Spider-Man Balloon and mighty Marvel Universe Float in this year's Macy's THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE November 26 on network television!!!

THIS MAD SCIENTIST WHO WORKED FOR SOME EVIL HUMANS CALLED *THE RIGHT* MADE BIRD-BRAIN AND OTHER ANIMAL KIDS...

... AND THEN HE GOT BORED AND TRIED TO KILL THEM ONLY WE STOPPED HIM... *AND* THE RIGHT...

ONLY THE ANI-MATOR KILLED DOUG...

HE WAS TRYING TO KILL *ME!*

BUT WE SAVED LOTS OF ANI-MATES...

AND *WE'LL* HELP ILLYANA SAVE HER *BROTHER*, IF ONLY SHE'LL TAKE US WITH HER!

YOU WILL DO *NOTHING!*

HUMANS KILLED DOUG! *PROTECTING* HUMANS HAS DESTROYED THE X-MEN!

ARE YOU NOT AWARE THAT THE *HUMANS* ARE FORCING KNOWN MUTANTS TO *REGISTER?*

HAVE YOU NO CONCEPT OF WHAT THAT MAY *MEAN?*

YOU ARE *NOT* THE X-MEN! YOU ARE *CHILDREN!* YOU MAY BE ALL THAT I HAVE *LEFT!*

I *FORBID* YOU TO USE YOUR POWERS WITHOUT MY SUPERVISION. OR TO *LEAVE* THESE GROUNDS, WITHOUT PERMISSION.

AND THIS TIME, I WILL MAKE CERTAIN THAT YOU *OBEY!*

WHAT'LL YOU DO, MAGNETO, PUT US IN *SHACKLES?*

MAGIK! ILLYANA...

I'VE BEEN IN LIMBO, FIGHTING TO GET INTO DALLAS, INTO THE MAGICKED AREA THERE!

WHATEVER IT IS... WHATEVER'S GOING ON... THERE'S SOME KIND OF BARRIER.

I CAN'T GET IN... AND MY *SCRYING GLASS* DOESN'T REGISTER MY BROTHER AT ALL!

I... I THINK HE'S *DEAD!* I THINK THEY'RE *ALL* DEAD!

AND YOU DON'T *CARE!*

I WAS *WRONG* ABOUT YOU!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE DEAD!

ILLYANA, *NO!* LISTEN.

MAGNETO *MEANS* WELL...

PUT DOWN YOUR SWORD! SEND IT BACK TO LIMBO... WHERE IT BELONGS!

NO!

ITS MAGIC THERE HELPS KEEP LIMBO PARTLY *FREE* OF DEMONS. YOU CAN'T *AFFORD* TO KEEP IT HERE.

AND WHAT HAPPENED... IT'S NO MORE *MAGNETO'S* FAULT THAN OUR *OWN*.

PUT BACK YOUR SWORD.

THIS ISN'T WHAT DOUG... OR YOUR BROTHER... WOULD HAVE WANTED.

NOW SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

FORGET HIM, GUYS! WE GOTTA HELP *ILLYANA*... *IF* WE CAN FIND HER!

CURSE YOU, CHARLES XAVIER, FOR PUTTING ME IN THIS POSITION!

I HAVE NO RAPPORT WITH THESE CHILDREN.

OBSERVE THE BITTER FRUIT OF MY LABORS!

AN ILL WIND IS COMING... THEY ARE REGISTERING MUTANTS... LIKE THEY ONCE REGISTERED MY PEOPLE IN POLAND...!

WHO KNOWS WHAT HORRORS AWAIT US.

BUT THEY ARE ONLY CHILDREN. HOW CAN THEY POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND... *ANY* OF THIS.

ILLYANA...?

I... I *HATE* BEING SO HELPLESS. AND I WAS SO *DUMB!*

I SAW MAGNETO AS... SORT OF... A *KNIGHT* IN SHINING ARMOR. LIKE MY *BROTHER*.

FRAGILE
HANDLE

I WANTED HIM TO *PROTECT* ME... EVEN FROM *MYSELF*.

I... I JUST WANTED TO BE A... A *KID*.

NOTHING'S WRONG WITH THAT, ILLYANA...

... BUT NOW *DOUG'S* GONE... AND YOUR *BROTHER*... AND THE *X-MEN* ARE GONE, TOO.

I DON'T THINK WE CAN *AFFORD* TO BE KIDS ANYMORE.

AND SOON...

WE DIDN'T SIGN UP TA BE *MAGNETO'S* STUDENTS. WE'RE *XAVIER'S*...!

Y'KNOW, DANI, THIS ATTIC IS CRAMMED WITH COSTUME STUFF.

YEAH, EVEN IF HE'S GONE, *WE'RE* PLEDGED TO XAVIER'S *GOALS*.

YEAH, DIBS ON THE *BOOTS*.

RIGHT, DANI! FIGHT *EVIL MUTANTS*... LIKE THE HORSEMEN AND THE MARAUDERS!

HEY, DIG THE KILLER BELT!

WE MUST FIGHT EVIL *HUMANS*, TOO! THE RIGHT AND THE MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT REPRESENT TERRIBLE WRONGS!

BUT TRYING ON CLOTHES AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

QUERY: SELFRIENDS... WOULD PROFESSOR XAVIER NOT BE DISMAYED AT PROPOSED ACTIONS BY FORMER DEARSTUDENTS?

YOU SEE, RAHNE, THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.

WE CAN'T WEAR MAGNETO'S COSTUMES, OR XAVIER'S, EITHER... 'CAUSE WE'RE GONNA DISOBEY HIM, BIG TIME!

WE'RE ON OUR OWN!

WELL, WARLOCK, IT'LL BE *DANGEROUS*, FOR SURE. *MAGNETO* THINKS WE AREN'T UP TO IT.

AND IF WE'RE NOT, WE'LL LEARN THAT BY OURSELVES.

XAVIER TRAINED US! AND HIS GOALS ARE *OUR* GOALS.

THE X-MEN ARE *GONE*... *WE'RE* ALL THE WORLD HAS LEFT.

'CAUSE IF *WE* DON'T SAVE THE WORLD, WHO WILL?

NEXT ISSUE: *MAGMA* HAS JOINED THE *HELLIONS!* AND *EMPATH* TAKES A... SPECIAL INTEREST.

PLAYING WITH FIRE!

A CHANGE OF SCENE! A SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST! A VERY STRANGE LOVE STORY.

The Fall of the Mutants

Syl3nt Bob